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# ROBERT GARY RASKIN

(February 22, 1957 - March 2, 2012)

Memorial service at  
The Church of Truth  
Pasadena, CA  
March 24, 2012

Rob was born in Detroit, Michigan to Ruth and Martin Raskin. He spent most of his youth in nearby Oak Park, Michigan. While in high school, Rob, already bitten by the science and curiosity bug, convinced his father to help him build a telescope. When completed, the family spent many weekends searching the night sky, learning about the stars. Rob enjoyed photography, and worked his way thru college as a camera salesman. His father had a small dark room in the basement and Rob was able to develop his own photos. He liked taking pictures of scenery on vacations in northern Michigan. He also spent many summers in Massachusetts with family, and enjoyed his time on Cape Cod, playing in the waves along the Atlantic coastline.

Rob went to Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan and received his BA in Physics in 1980. He moved to the mountains of Colorado and received his MS in Applied Mathematics (Applied Operations) in 1984 from the University of Colorado. He then returned to Michigan, receiving his PhD from the University of Michigan in Atmospheric Science in 1992. Later he had periods as a post doctoral researcher and visiting fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara before finally coming to the Jet Propulsion Lab in 1997 to really evolve his career into a nationally respected earth science data expert. Rob had too numerous a list of awards, projects, papers, contributions and milestones to note in this brief biography. Suffice to say that he seeded, inspired, contributed to and led many many activities related to earth science data understanding, usage and management throughout NASA and other national scientific organizations.



He was elected vice president of the NASA-initiated Federation of Earth Science Information Partners, and recognized as a valued mentor to JPL and external colleagues.

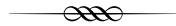
In his early 20s, Rob learned he had diabetes. He started reading about alternatives to insulin and decided to manage his condition with diet and exercise. His search for alternatives expanded to meditation, spiritual self healing, contra dancing, then Sufi dancing, an interactive dance, allowing partners to connect with each other's sacred self and bring the positive energies of love, peace, joy and compassion into the world. As part of his developing life philosophy he took personal responsibility for his place on this planet. He walked to work from his home in the Altadena hills, and did not own a car or cell phone. He lived simply and conserved natural resources wherever he could. His many business trips allowed him to explore beautiful areas of the United States. But he chose Hawaii for his vacations, where he could hear the waterfalls from his bedroom, walk in the tropical forests and be at one with nature. Rob injured his ankle a few years ago and his hiking days became fewer. Even with medications, it was more difficult to control his diabetes and the disease took its toll on his body.

Rob accomplished more in his 55 years than many will do in a lifetime. The world is truly a better place because Rob was a part of us. He is survived by his sister Lisa, niece Jessica and nephew Dan. May he live on in all of our hearts.



# **I Hold the Lion's Paw**

(One of Rob's favorite poems)



I hold the Lion's Paw  
Whenever I dance.

I know the ecstasy of the falcon's wings  
When they make love against the sky.

And the sun and moon  
Sometimes argue over  
Who will tuck me in at night,

If you think I am having more fun  
Than anyone on this planet  
You are absolutely correct.

But Hafiz  
Is willing to share all his secrets  
About how to befriend God.

Indeed, Dear ones,  
Hafiz is so very willing  
To share all his secrets  
About how to know the  
Beautiful  
One.

I hold the Lion's Paw whenever I dance.

I know the ecstasy of your heart's wings  
When they make love against the Sky.

And the sun and moon  
Will someday argue over  
Who will tuck you in at  
Night!



## **Celebration of Life for Robert Gary Raskin**

**March 24, 2012**

**Welcome and invocation.....Joan Doyle**  
**Eulogy.....Justin Elledge**  
**Tribute to Rob..... Kay Barrett**  
**Rob's Life in Picture and Song**  
**Tribute to Rob II.....Ed Armstrong**  
**Final Words..... Lisa Steele**  
**Invitation to Share for Others**  
**Demonstration of Sufi Dancing**  
**Closing Prayer.....Justin Elledge**

Please join us this afternoon, between 2 pm and 5 pm for an open  
house, at 4381 Canyon Crest Rd, Altadena 91001.  
Parking is on the street, then walk up the steep driveway.

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